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| 81ST CONGRESS }<br>1st Session } | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { | REPORT<br>No. 935 |
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FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
ACT OF 1949

JUNE 28, 1949.—Ordered to turn over to record

Mr. DAWSON, from the committee of conference, submitted the  
following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4754]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 4754) to simplify the procurement, utilization, and disposal of Government property, to reorganize certain agencies of the Government, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment insert the following:

SHORT TITLE

*That this Act may be cited as the "Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949".*

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*DECLARATION OF POLICY*

*SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Congress in enacting this legislation to provide for the Government an economical and efficient system for (a) the procurement and supply of personal property and nonpersonal services, including related functions such as contracting, inspection, storage, issue, specifications, property identification and classification, transportation and traffic management, management of public utility services, repairing and converting, establishment of inventory levels, establishment of forms and procedures, and representation before Federal and State regulatory bodies; (b) the utilization of available property; (c) the disposal of surplus property; and (d) records management.*

*DEFINITIONS*

*SEC. 3. As used in this Act—*

- (a) The term "executive agency" means any executive department or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government, including any wholly owned Government corporation.*
- (b) The term "Federal agency" means any executive agency or any establishment in the legislative or judicial branch of the Government (except the Senate and the House of Representatives).*
- (c) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services provided for in title I hereof.*

(d) The term "property" means any interest in property of any kind except (1) the public domain and lands reserved or dedicated for national forest or national park purposes; and (2) naval vessels of the following categories: Battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers, and submarines.

(e) The term "excess property" means any property under the control of any Federal agency which is not required for its needs and the discharge of its responsibilities, as determined by the head thereof.

(f) The term "foreign excess property" means any excess property located outside the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

(g) The term "surplus property" means any excess property not required for the needs and the discharge of the responsibilities of all Federal agencies, as determined by the Administrator.

(h) The term "care and handling" includes completing, repairing, converting, rehabilitating, operating, preserving, protecting, insuring, packing, storing, handling, conserving, and transporting excess and surplus property, and, in the case of property which is dangerous to public health or safety, destroying or rendering innocuous such property.

(i) The term "person" includes any corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, or other entity.

(j) The term "nonpersonal services" means such contractual services, other than personal and professional services, as the Administrator shall designate.

(k) The term "contractor inventory" means (1) any property acquired by and in the possession of a contractor or subcontractor under a contract pursuant to the terms of which title is vested in the Government, and in excess of the amounts needed to complete full performance under the entire contract; and (2) any property which the Government is obligated to take over under any type of contract as a result either of any changes in the specifications or plans thereunder or of the termination of such contract (or subcontract thereunder), prior to completion of the work, for the convenience or at the option of the Government.

## TITLE I—ORGANIZATION

### GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 101. (a) There is hereby established an agency in the executive branch of the Government which shall be known as the General Services Administration.

(b) There shall be at the head of the General Services Administration an Administrator of General Services who shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and perform his functions subject to the direction and control of the President.

(c) There shall be in the General Services Administration a Deputy Administrator of General Services who shall be appointed by the Administrator of General Services. The Deputy Administrator shall perform such functions as the Administrator shall designate and shall be Acting Administrator of General Services during the absence or disability of the Administrator and, unless the President shall designate another officer of the Government, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Administrator.

(d) Pending the first appointment of the Administrator under the provisions of this section, his functions shall be performed temporarily by such officer of the Government in office upon or immediately prior to the taking of effect of the provisions of this Act as the President shall designate and such officer while so serving shall receive the salary fixed for the Administrator.

(e) Pending the effective date of other provisions of law fixing the rates of compensation of the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator and of the heads and assistant heads of the principal organizational units of the General Services Administration, and taking into consideration provisions of law governing the compensation of officers having comparable responsibilities and duties, the President shall fix for each of them a rate of compensation which he shall deem to be commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of the respective offices involved.

#### TRANSFER OF AFFAIRS OF BUREAU OF FEDERAL SUPPLY

SEC. 102. (a) The functions of (1) the Bureau of Federal Supply in the Department of the Treasury, (2) the Director of the Bureau of Federal Supply, (3) the personnel of such Bureau, and (4) the Secretary of the Treasury, relating to the Bureau of Federal Supply, are hereby transferred to the Administrator. The records, property, personnel, obligations, and commitments of the Bureau of Federal Supply, together with such additional records, property, and personnel of the Department of the Treasury as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate primarily to functions transferred by this section or vested in the Administrator by titles II, III, and V, of this Act, are hereby transferred to the General Services Administration. The Bureau of Federal Supply and the office of Director of the Bureau of Federal Supply are hereby abolished.

(b) The functions of the Director of Contract Settlement and of the Office of Contract Settlement, transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury by Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1947, are transferred to the Administrator and shall be performed by him or, subject to his direction and control, by such officers and agencies of the General Services Administration as he may designate. The Contract Settlement Advisory Board created by section 5 of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 649) and the Appeal Board established under section 13 (d) of that Act are transferred from the Department of the Treasury to the General Services Administration, but the functions of these Boards shall be performed by them, respectively, under conditions and limitations prescribed by law. There shall also be transferred to the General Services Administration such records, property, personnel, obligations, commitments, and unexpended balances (available or to be made available) of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Treasury Department as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate primarily to the functions transferred by the provisions of this subsection.

(c) Any other provision of this section notwithstanding, there may be retained in the Department of the Treasury any function referred to in subsection (a) of this section which the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall, within ten days after the effective date of this Act, determine to be essential to the orderly administration of the affairs of the agencies of such Department, other than the Bureau of Federal Supply, together

with such records, property, personnel, obligations, commitments, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, available or to be made available, of said Department, as said Director shall determine.

TRANSFER OF AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

SEC. 103. (a) All functions of the Federal Works Agency and of all agencies thereof, together with all functions of the Federal Works Administrator, of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, and of the Commissioner of Public Roads, are hereby transferred to the Administrator of General Services. There are hereby transferred to the General Services Administration the Public Roads Administration, which shall hereafter be known as the Bureau of Public Roads, and all records, property, personnel, obligations, and commitments of the Federal Works Agency, including those of all agencies of the Federal Works Agency.

(b) There are hereby abolished the Federal Works Agency, the Public Buildings Administration, the office of Federal Works Administrator, the office of Commissioner of Public Buildings, and the office of Assistant Federal Works Administrator.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT: TRANSFER OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SEC. 104. (a) The National Archives Establishment and its functions, records, property, personnel, obligations, and commitments are hereby transferred to the General Services Administration. There are transferred to the Administrator (1) the functions of the Archivist of the United States, except that the Archivist shall continue to be a member or chairman, as the case may be, of the bodies referred to in subsection (b) of this section, and (2) the functions of the Director of the Division of the Federal Register of the National Archives Establishment. The Archivist of the United States shall hereafter be appointed by the Administrator.

(b) There are also transferred to the General Services Administration the following bodies, together with their respective functions and such funds as are derived from Federal sources: (1) The National Archives Council and the National Historical Publications Commission, established by the Act of June 19, 1934 (48 Stat. 1122), (2) the National Archives Trust Fund Board, established by the Act of July 9, 1941 (55 Stat. 581), (3) the Board of Trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, established by the Joint Resolution of July 18, 1939 (53 Stat. 1062), and (4) the Administrative Committee established by section 6 of the Act of July 26, 1935 (49 Stat. 501), which shall hereafter be known as the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register. The authority of the Administrator under section 106 hereof shall not extend to the bodies or functions affected by this subsection.

(c) The Administrator is authorized (1) to make surveys of Government records and records management and disposal practices and obtain reports thereon from Federal agencies; (2) to promote, in cooperation with the executive agencies, improved records management practices and controls in such agencies, including the central storage or disposition of records not needed by such agencies for their current use; and (3) to report to the Congress and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget from time to time the results of such activities.

TRANSFER FOR LIQUIDATION OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE WAR ASSETS  
ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 105. *The functions, records, property, personnel, obligations, and commitments of the War Assets Administration are hereby transferred to the General Services Administration. The functions of the War Assets Administrator are hereby transferred to the Administrator of General Services. The War Assets Administration, the office of the War Assets Administrator, and the office of Associate War Assets Administrator are hereby abolished. Personnel now holding appointments granted under the second sentence of section 5 (b) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, may be continued in such positions or may be appointed to similar positions for such time as the Administrator may determine.*

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS

SEC. 106. *The Administrator is hereby authorized, in his discretion, in order to provide for the effective accomplishment of the functions transferred to or vested in him by this Act, and from time to time, to regroup, transfer, and distribute any such functions within the General Services Administration. The Administrator is hereby authorized to transfer the funds necessary to accomplish said functions and report such transfers of funds to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.*

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

SEC. 107. (a) *All unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds available or to be made available, for the use of the Bureau of Federal Supply, the War Assets Administration, the Federal Works Agency, and the National Archives Establishment, and so much of the other unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds of the Department of the Treasury, available or to be made available, as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate primarily to functions transferred to or vested in the Administrator by the provisions of this Act, shall be transferred to the General Services Administration for use in connection with the functions to which such balances relate, respectively.*

(b) *When other functions are transferred to the General Services Administration from any Federal agency, under section 201 (a) (2) or (3), or otherwise under this Act, there shall be transferred such records, property, personnel, appropriations, allocations, and other funds of such agency to the General Services Administration as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate primarily to the functions so transferred.*

STATUS OF TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEES

SEC. 108. *Subject to other provisions of this title relating to personnel, employees transferred by the provisions of this title shall be deemed to be employees of the General Services Administration and their reappointment shall not be required by reason of the enactment of this Act.*

GENERAL SUPPLY FUND

SEC. 109. (a) There is hereby authorized to be set aside in the Treasury a special fund which shall be known as the General Supply Fund. Such fund shall be composed of the assets of the general supply fund (including any surplus therein) created by section 3 of the Act of February 27, 1929 (45 Stat. 1342; 41 U. S. C. 7c), and transferred to the Administrator by section 102 of this Act, and such sums as may be appropriated thereto, and the fund shall assume all of the liabilities, obligations, and commitments of the general supply fund created by such Act of February 27, 1929. The capital of the General Supply Fund shall be in an amount not greater than \$75,000,000. The General Supply Fund shall be available for use by or under the direction and control of the Administrator (1) for procuring personal property (including the purchase from or through the Public Printer of standard forms and blankbook work for field warehouse issue) and nonpersonal services for the use of Federal agencies in the proper discharge of their responsibilities, and (2) for paying all elements of cost of the procurement, handling, and distribution thereof, except that on and after July 1, 1950, those elements of cost which are determined by the Administrator with the approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to be indirect or overhead costs shall not be paid from the fund.

(b) Payment by requisitioning agencies shall be at prices fixed by the Administrator. Until July 1, 1950, such prices shall be fixed in accordance with law and regulations applicable on the date of enactment of this Act to prices fixed by the Director of the Bureau of Federal Supply. On and after such date, such prices shall be fixed at levels so as to recover so far as practicable all costs except those which are determined by the Administrator with the approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to be indirect or overhead costs. Requisitioning agencies shall pay by advance of funds in all cases where it is determined by the Administrator that there is insufficient capital otherwise available in the General Supply Fund. Advances of funds also may be made by agreement between the requisitioning agencies and the Administrator. Where an advance of funds is not made, requisitioning agencies shall promptly reimburse the General Services Administration on vouchers prepared by the requisitioning agency on the basis of itemized invoices submitted by the Administrator and receiving reports evidencing the delivery to the requisitioning agency of such supplies or services: Provided, That in any case where payment shall not have been made by the requisitioning agency within forty-five days after the date of billing by the Administrator, reimbursement may be obtained by the Administrator by the issuance of transfer and counterwarrants supported by itemized invoices.

(c) The General Supply Fund shall be credited with all reimbursements, advances of funds, and refunds or recoveries relating to supplies or services procured through the fund, including the net proceeds of disposal of surplus supplies procured through the fund and receipts from carriers and others for loss of, or damage to, supplies procured through the fund; and the same are hereby reappropriated for the purposes of the fund.

(d) A special deposit account may be established as a part of the General Supply Fund with the Treasurer of the United States for use by the chief disbursing officer or any regional disbursing officer, Department of the Treasury, which may be credited with (1) funds advanced from the General Supply Fund account on the books of the Division of Bookkeeping and Warrants and (2) other funds properly for credit to the General



*Supply Fund without being covered into the Treasury of the United States; and such special deposit account may be charged with payments properly chargeable to the General Supply Fund.*

*(e) The Comptroller General of the United States shall make an annual audit of the General Supply Fund as of June 30, and there shall be covered into the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts any surplus found therein, all assets, liabilities, and prior losses considered, above the amounts transferred or appropriated to establish and maintain said fund, and the Comptroller General shall report to the Congress annually the results of the audit, together with such recommendations as he may have regarding the status and operations of the fund.*

*(f) Subject to the requirements of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section, the General Supply Fund also may be used for the procurement of supplies and nonpersonal services authorized to be acquired by mixed-ownership Government corporations, or by the municipal government of the District of Columbia, or by a requisitioning non-Federal agency when the function of a Federal agency authorized to procure for it is transferred to the General Services Administration: Provided, That the prices charged by the Administrator in such cases shall be fixed at levels which he estimates will be sufficient to recover, in addition to the direct costs of the procurement, handling, and distribution of such supplies and services, the indirect and overhead costs that the Administrator determines are allocable thereto.*

## TITLE II—PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### PROCUREMENT, WAREHOUSING, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

SEC. 201. (a) *The Administrator shall, in respect of executive agencies, and to the extent that he determines that so doing is advantageous to the Government in terms of economy, efficiency, or service, and with due regard to the program activities of the agencies concerned—*

*(1) prescribe policies and methods of procurement and supply of personal property and nonpersonal services, including related functions such as contracting, inspection, storage, issue, property identification and classification, transportation and traffic management, management of public utility services, and repairing and converting; and*

*(2) operate, and, after consultation with the executive agencies affected, consolidate, take over, or arrange for the operation by any executive agency of warehouses, supply centers, repair shops, fuel yards, and other similar facilities; and*

*(3) procure and supply personal property and nonpersonal services for the use of executive agencies in the proper discharge of their responsibilities, and perform functions related to procurement and supply such as those mentioned above in subparagraph (1): Provided, That contracts for public utility services may be made for periods not exceeding ten years; and*

*(4) with respect to transportation and other public utility services for the use of executive agencies, represent such agencies in negotiations with carriers and other public utilities and in proceedings involving carriers or other public utilities before Federal and State regulatory bodies;*



*Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may from time to time, and unless the President shall otherwise direct, exempt the National Military Establishment from action taken or which may be taken by the Administrator under clauses (1), (2), (3), and (4) above whenever he determines such exemption to be in the best interests of national security.*

*(b) The Administrator shall as far as practicable provide any of the services specified in subsection (a) of this section to any other Federal agency, mixed ownership corporation (as defined in the Government Corporation Control Act), or the District of Columbia, or the Senate, or the House of Representatives, upon its request.*

*(c) In acquiring personal property, any executive agency, under regulations to be prescribed by the Administrator, may exchange or sell similar items and may apply the exchange allowance or proceeds of sale in such cases in whole or in part payment for the property acquired: Provided, That any transaction carried out under the authority of this subsection shall be evidenced in writing.*

#### PROPERTY UTILIZATION

*SEC. 202. (a) In order to minimize expenditures for property, the Administrator shall prescribe policies and methods to promote the maximum utilization of excess property by executive agencies, and he shall provide for the transfer of excess property among Federal agencies.*

*(b) Each executive agency shall (1) maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for the property under its control, (2) continuously survey property under its control to determine which is excess property, and promptly report such property to the Administrator, (3) perform the care and handling of such excess property, and (4) transfer or dispose of such property as promptly as possible in accordance with authority delegated and regulations prescribed by the Administrator.*

*(c) Each executive agency shall, as far as practicable, (1) make reassignments of property among activities within the agency when such property is determined to be no longer required for the purposes of the appropriation from which it was purchased, (2) transfer excess property under its control to other Federal agencies, and (3) obtain excess property from other Federal agencies.*

*(d) Under existing provisions of law and procedures defined by the Secretary of Defense, and without regard to the requirements of this section except subsection (f), excess property of one of the departments of the National Military Establishment may be transferred to another department thereof.*

*(e) Transfers of excess property between Federal agencies (except transfers for redistribution to other Federal agencies or for disposal as surplus property) shall be at the fair value thereof, as determined by, or pursuant to regulations of, the Administrator, unless such transfer is otherwise authorized by any law approved subsequent to June 21, 1944, to be without reimbursement or transfer of funds.*

*(f) The Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall prescribe regulations providing for the reporting to said Director by executive agencies of such reassignments or transfers of property between activities financed by different appropriations as he shall deem appropriate, and the reassignments and transfers so reported shall be reported to the Congress in the annual budget or otherwise as said Director may determine.*

(g) Whenever the Administrator determines that the temporary assignment or reassignment of any space in excess real property to any Federal agency for office, storage, or related facilities would be more advantageous than the permanent transfer of such property, he may make such assignment or reassignment for such period of time as he shall determine and obtain, in the absence of appropriation available to him therefor, appropriate reimbursement from the using agency for the expense of maintaining such space.

(h) The Administrator may authorize the abandonment, destruction, or donation to public bodies of property which has no commercial value or of which the estimated cost of continued care and handling would exceed the estimated proceeds from its sale.

#### DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

SEC. 203. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Administrator shall have supervision and direction over the disposition of surplus property. Such property shall be disposed of to such extent, at such time, in such areas, by such agencies, at such terms and conditions, and in such manner, as may be prescribed in or pursuant to this Act.

(b) The care and handling of surplus property, pending its disposition, and the disposal of surplus property, may be performed by the General Services Administration or, when so determined by the Administrator, by the executive agency in possession thereof or by any other executive agency consenting thereto.

(c) Any executive agency designated or authorized by the Administrator to dispose of surplus property may do so by sale, exchange, lease, permit, or transfer, for cash, credit, or other property, with or without warranty, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Administrator deems proper, and it may execute such documents for the transfer of title or other interest in property and take such other action as it deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property under the provisions of this title.

(d) A deed, bill of sale, lease, or other instrument executed by or on behalf of any executive agency purporting to transfer title or any other interest in surplus property under this title shall be conclusive evidence of compliance with the provisions of this title insofar as concerns title or other interest of any bona fide grantee or transferee for value and without notice of lack of such compliance.

(e) Unless the Administrator shall determine that disposal by advertising will in a given case better protect the public interest, surplus property disposals may be made without regard to any provision of existing law for advertising until 12 o'clock noon, eastern standard time, December 31, 1950.

(f) Subject to regulations of the Administrator, any executive agency may authorize any contractor with such agency or subcontractor thereunder to retain or dispose of any contractor inventory.

(g) The Administrator, in formulating policies with respect to the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities, surplus foods processed from agricultural commodities, and surplus cotton or woolen goods, shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture. Such policies shall be so formulated as to prevent surplus agricultural commodities, or surplus food processed from agricultural commodities, from being dumped on the market in a disorderly manner and disrupting the market prices for agricultural commodities.

(h) Whenever the Secretary of Agriculture determines such action to be required to assist him in carrying out his responsibilities with respect to price support or stabilization, the Administrator shall transfer without charge to the Department of Agriculture any surplus agricultural commodities, foods, or cotton or woolen goods to be disposed of. Receipts resulting from disposal by the Department of Agriculture under this subsection shall be deposited pursuant to any authority available to the Secretary of Agriculture, except that net proceeds of any sale of surplus property so transferred shall be credited pursuant to section 204 (b), when applicable. Surplus farm commodities so transferred shall not be sold, other than for export, in quantities in excess of, or at prices less than, those applicable with respect to sales of such commodities by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(i) The United States Maritime Commission shall dispose of surplus vessels of one thousand five hundred gross tons or more which the Commission determines to be merchant vessels or capable of conversion to merchant use, and such vessels shall be disposed of only in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, and other laws authorizing the sale of such vessels.

(j) (1) Under such regulations as he may prescribe, the Administrator is authorized in his discretion to donate for educational purposes in the States, Territories, and possessions without cost (except for costs of care and handling) such equipment, materials, books, or other supplies under the control of any executive agency as shall have been determined to be surplus property and which shall have been determined under paragraph 2 or paragraph 3 of this subsection to be usable and necessary for educational purposes.

(2) Determination whether such surplus property (except surplus property donated in conformity with paragraph 3 of this subsection) is usable and necessary for educational purposes shall be made by the Federal Security Administrator, who shall allocate such property on the basis of needs and utilization for transfer by the Administrator of General Services to tax-supported school systems, schools, colleges, and universities, and to other nonprofit schools, colleges, and universities which have been held exempt from taxation under section 101 (6) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to State departments of education for distribution to such tax-supported and nonprofit school systems, schools, colleges, and universities; except that in any State where another agency is designated by State law for such purpose such transfer shall be made to said agency for such distribution within the State.

(3) In the case of surplus property under the control of the National Military Establishment, the Secretary of Defense shall determine whether such property is usable and necessary for educational activities that are of special interest to the armed services, such as maritime academies or military, naval, Air Force, or Coast Guard preparatory schools. If such Secretary shall determine that such property is usable and necessary for such purposes, he shall allocate it for transfer by the Administrator to such educational activities. If he shall determine that such property is not usable and necessary for such purposes, it may be disposed of in accordance with paragraph 2 of this subsection.

(k) (1) Under such regulations as he may prescribe, the Administrator is authorized, in his discretion, to assign to the Federal Security Administrator for disposal such surplus real property, including buildings, structures, and equipment situated thereon, as is recommended by the

*Federal Security Administrator as being needed for school, classroom, or other educational use, or for use in the protection of public health, including research.*

*(A) Subject to the disapproval of the Administrator within thirty days after notice to him by the Federal Security Administrator of a proposed transfer of property for school, classroom, or other educational use, the Federal Security Administrator, through such officers or employees of the Federal Security Agency as he may designate, may sell or lease such real property, including buildings, fixtures, and equipment situated thereon, for educational purposes to the States and their political subdivisions and instrumentalities, and tax-supported educational institutions, and to other nonprofit educational institutions which have been held exempt from taxation under section 101 (6) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

*(B) Subject to the disapproval of the Administrator within thirty days after notice to him by the Federal Security Administrator of a proposed transfer of property for public-health use, the Federal Security Administrator, through such officers or employees of the Federal Security Agency as he may designate, may sell or lease such real property for public-health purposes, including research, to the States and their political subdivisions and instrumentalities, and to tax-supported medical institutions, and to hospitals or other similar institutions not operated for profit which have been held exempt from taxation under section 101 (6) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

*(C) In fixing the sale or lease value of property to be disposed of under subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the Federal Security Administrator shall take into consideration any benefit which has accrued or may accrue to the United States from the use of such property by any such State, political subdivision, instrumentality, or institution.*

*(D) "States" as used in this subsection includes the District of Columbia and the Territories and possessions of the United States.*

*(2) Subject to the disapproval of the Administrator within thirty days after notice to him of any action to be taken under this subsection—*

*(A) The Federal Security Administrator, through such officers or employees of the Federal Security Agency as he may designate, in the case of property transferred pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, and pursuant to this Act, to States, political subdivisions, and instrumentalities thereof, and tax-supported and other nonprofit educational institutions for school, classroom, or other educational use;*

*(B) the Federal Security Administrator, through such officer or employees of the Federal Security Agency as he may designate, in the case of property transferred pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, and pursuant to this Act, to States, political subdivisions and instrumentalities thereof, tax-supported medical institutions, and to hospitals and other similar institutions not operated for profit, for use in the protection of public health (including research);*

*(C) the Secretary of the Interior, in the case of property transferred pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, and pursuant to this Act, to States, political subdivisions, and instrumentalities thereof, and municipalities for use as a public park,*

public recreational area, or historic monument for the benefit of the public; or

(D) the Secretary of Defense, in the case of property transferred pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, to States, political subdivisions, and tax-supported instrumentalities thereof for use in the training and maintenance of civilian components of the armed forces,  
is authorized and directed—

(i) to determine and enforce compliance with the terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions contained in any instrument by which such transfer was made;

(ii) to reform, correct, or amend any such instrument by the execution of a corrective, reformatory, or amendatory instrument where necessary to correct such instrument or to conform such transfer to the requirements of applicable law; and

(iii) to (I) grant releases from any of the terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions contained in, and (II) convey, quitclaim, or release to the transferee or other eligible user any right or interest reserved to the United States by, any instrument by which such transfer was made, if he determines that the property so transferred no longer serves the purpose for which it was transferred, and that such release, conveyance, or quitclaim deed will not prevent accomplishment of the purpose for which such property was so transferred: Provided, That any such release, conveyance, or quitclaim deed may be granted on, or made subject to, such terms and conditions as he shall deem necessary to protect or advance the interests of the United States.

(I) The Administrator is authorized to take possession of abandoned and other unclaimed property on premises owned or leased by the Government, to determine when title thereto vested in the United States, and to utilize, transfer or otherwise dispose of such property. Former owners of such property upon proper claim filed within three years from the date of vesting of title in the United States shall be paid the proceeds realized from the disposition of such property or, if the property is used or transferred, the fair value therefor as of the time title was vested in the United States as determined by the Administrator, less in either case the costs incident to the care and handling of such property as determined by the Administrator.

#### PROCEEDS FROM TRANSFER OR DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

SEC. 204. (a) All proceeds under this title from any transfer of excess property to a Federal agency for its use, or from any sale, lease, or other disposition of surplus property, shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts, except as provided in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section.

(b) Where the property transferred or disposed of was acquired by the use of funds either not appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury or appropriated therefrom but by law reimbursable from assessment, tax, or other revenue or receipts, then the net proceeds of the disposition or transfer shall be credited to the reimbursable fund or appropriation or paid to the Federal agency which determined such property to be excess: Provided, That the proceeds shall be credited to miscellaneous receipts in any case when the agency which determined the property to be excess shall

deem it uneconomical or impractical to ascertain the amount of net proceeds. As used in this subsection, the term "net proceeds of the disposition or transfer" means the proceeds of the disposition or transfer minus all expenses incurred for care and handling and disposition or transfer.

(c) Any Federal agency disposing of surplus property under this title (1) may deposit, in a special account with the Treasurer of the United States, such amount of the proceeds of such dispositions as it deems necessary to permit appropriate refunds to purchasers when any disposition is rescinded or does not become final, or payments for breach of any warranty, and (2) may withdraw therefrom amounts so to be refunded or paid, without regard to the origin of the funds withdrawn.

(d) Where any contract entered into by an executive agency or any subcontract under such contract authorizes the proceeds of any sale of property in the custody of the contractor or subcontractor to be credited to the price or cost of the work covered by such contract or subcontract, the proceeds of any such sale shall be credited in accordance with the contract or subcontract.

(e) Any executive agency entitled to receive cash under any contract covering the lease, sale or other disposition of surplus property may in its discretion accept, in lieu of cash, any property determined by the Munitions Board to be strategic or critical material at the prevailing market price thereof at the time the cash payment or payments became or become due.

(f) Where credit has been extended in connection with any disposition of surplus property under this title or by War Assets Administration (or its predecessor agencies) under the Surplus Property Act of 1944, or where such disposition has been by lease or permit, the Administrator shall administer and manage such credit, lease, or permit, and any security therefor, and may enforce, adjust, and settle any right of the Government with respect thereto in such manner and upon such terms as he deems in the best interest of the Government.

#### POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND DELEGATIONS

SEC. 205. (a) The President may prescribe such policies and directives, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as he shall deem necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Act, which policies and directives shall govern the Administrator and executive agencies in carrying out their respective functions hereunder.

(b) The Comptroller General after considering the needs and requirements of the executive agencies shall prescribe principles and standards of accounting for property, cooperate with the Administrator and with the executive agencies in the development of property accounting systems, and approve such systems when deemed to be adequate and in conformity with prescribed principles and standards. From time to time the General Accounting Office shall examine such property accounting systems as are established by the executive agencies to determine the extent of compliance with prescribed principles and standards and approved systems, and the Comptroller General shall report to the Congress any failure to comply with such principles and standards or to adequately account for property.

(c) The Administrator shall prescribe such regulations as he deems necessary to effectuate his functions under this Act, and the head of each

executive agency shall cause to be issued such orders and directives as such head deems necessary to carry out such regulations.

(d) The Administrator is authorized to delegate and to authorize successive redelegation of any authority transferred to or vested in him by this Act (except for the authority to issue regulations on matters of policy having application to executive agencies, the authority contained in section 106, and except as otherwise provided in this Act) to any official in the General Services Administration or to the head of any other Federal agency.

(e) With respect to any function transferred to or vested in the General Services Administration or the Administrator by this Act, the Administrator may (1) direct the undertaking of its performance by the General Services Administration or by any constituent organization therein which he may designate or establish; or (2) designate and authorize any executive agency to perform such function for itself; or (3) designate and authorize any other executive agency to perform such function; or (4) provide for such performance by any combination of the foregoing methods. Any designation or assignment of functions or delegation of authority to another executive agency under this section shall be made only with the consent of the executive agency concerned or upon direction of the President.

(f) When any executive agency (including the General Services Administration and constituent organizations thereof) is authorized and directed by the Administrator to carry out any function under this Act, the Administrator may, with the approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, provide for the transfer of appropriate personnel, records, property, and allocated funds of the General Services Administration, or of such other executive agency as has theretofore carried out such function, to the executive agency so authorized and directed.

(g) The Administrator may establish advisory committees to advise with him with respect to any function transferred to or vested in the Administrator by this Act. The members thereof shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to transportation and not to exceed \$25 per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 2, 1946 (5 U. S. C. 73b-2), for persons so serving.

(h) The Administrator shall advise and consult with interested Federal agencies with a view to obtaining their advice and assistance in carrying out the purposes of this title.

#### SURVEYS, STANDARDIZATION AND CATALOGING

SEC. 206. (a) As he may deem necessary for the effectuation of his functions under this title, and after adequate advance notice to the executive agencies affected, and with due regard to the requirements of the National Military Establishment as determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator is authorized (1) to make surveys of Government property and property management practices and obtain reports thereon from executive agencies; (2) to cooperate with executive agencies in the establishment of reasonable inventory levels for property stocked by them and from time to time report any excessive stocking to the Congress and to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget; (3) to establish and maintain such uniform Federal supply catalog system as may be appropriate to identify and classify personal property under the control of Federal agencies: Provided, That the Administrator and the Secretary of Defense shall coordinate the cataloging activities of the General Services Adminis-



tration and the National Military Establishment so as to avoid unnecessary duplication; and (4) to prescribe standardized forms and procedures, except such as the Comptroller General is authorized by law to prescribe, and standard purchase specifications.

(b) Each Federal agency shall utilize such uniform Federal supply catalog system and standard purchase specifications, except as the Administrator, taking into consideration efficiency, economy, and other interests of the Government, shall otherwise provide.

(c) The General Accounting Office shall audit all types of property accounts and transactions at such times and in such manner as determined by the Comptroller General. Such audit shall be conducted as far as practicable at the place or places where the property or records of the executive agencies are kept and shall include but not necessarily be limited to an evaluation of the effectiveness of internal controls and audits, and a general audit of the discharge of accountability for Government-owned or controlled property based upon generally accepted principles of auditing.

#### APPLICABILITY OF ANTITRUST LAWS

SEC. 207. Whenever any executive agency shall begin negotiations for the disposition to private interests of a plant or plants, or other property, which cost the Government \$1,000,000 or more, or of patents, processes, techniques, or inventions, irrespective of cost, the executive agency shall promptly notify the Attorney General of the proposed disposal and the probable terms or conditions thereof. Within a reasonable time, in no event to exceed sixty days after receiving such notification, the Attorney General shall advise the Administrator and the interested executive agency whether, insofar as he can determine, the proposed disposition would tend to create or maintain a situation inconsistent with the antitrust laws. Upon the request of the Attorney General, the Administrator or interested executive agency shall furnish or cause to be furnished such information as it may possess which the Attorney General determines to be appropriate or necessary to enable him to give the advice called for by this section or to determine whether any other disposition or proposed disposition of surplus property violates the antitrust laws. Nothing in this Act shall impair, amend, or modify the antitrust laws or limit and prevent their application to persons who buy or otherwise acquire property under the provisions of this Act. As used in this section, the term "antitrust laws" includes the Act of July 2, 1890 (ch. 647, 26 Stat. 209), as amended; the Act of October 15, 1914 (ch. 323, 38 Stat. 730), as amended; the Federal Trade Commission Act (38 Stat. 717), as amended; and sections 73 and 74 of the Act of August 27, 1894 (28 Stat. 570), as amended.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

SEC. 208. (a) The Administrator is authorized, subject to the civil-service and classification laws, to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of titles I, II, III, and V of this Act.

(b) To such extent as he finds necessary to carry out the provisions of titles I, II, III, and V of this Act, the Administrator is hereby authorized to procure the temporary (not in excess of one year) or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, including

stenographic reporting services, by contract or appointment, and in such cases such service shall be without regard to the civil-service and classification laws, and, except in the case of stenographic reporting services by organizations, without regard to section 3709, Revised Statutes, as amended (41 U. S. C. 5).

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1222 of the Revised Statutes (10 U. S. C. 576) or of any other provision of law, the Administrator in carrying out the functions imposed upon him by this Act is authorized to utilize in his agency the services of officials, officers, and other personnel in other executive agencies, including personnel of the armed services, with the consent of the head of the agency concerned.

#### CIVIL REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

SEC. 209. (a) Where any property is transferred or disposed of in accordance with this Act and any regulations prescribed hereunder, no officer or employee of the Government shall (1) be liable with respect to such transfer or disposition except for his own fraud, or (2) be accountable for the collection of any purchase price for such property which is determined to be uncollectible by the Federal agency responsible therefor.

(b) Every person who shall use or engage in, or cause to be used or engaged in, or enter into an agreement, combination, or conspiracy to use or engage in or to cause to be used or engaged in, any fraudulent trick, scheme, or device, for the purpose of securing or obtaining, or aiding to secure or obtain, for any person any payment, property, or other benefits from the United States or any Federal agency in connection with the procurement, transfer, or disposition of property hereunder—

(1) shall pay to the United States the sum of \$2,000 for each such act, and double the amount of any damage which the United States may have sustained by reason thereof, together with the cost of suit; or

(2) shall, if the United States shall so elect, pay to the United States, as liquidated damages, a sum equal to twice the consideration agreed to be given by the United States or any Federal agency to such person or by such person to the United States or any Federal agency, as the case may be; or

(3) shall, if the United States shall so elect, restore to the United States the money or property thus secured and obtained and the United States shall retain as liquidated damages any property, money, or other consideration given to the United States or any Federal agency for such money or property, as the case may be.

(c) The several district courts of the United States, the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, and the several district courts of the Territories and possessions of the United States, within whose jurisdictional limits the person, or persons, doing or committing such act, or any one of them, resides or shall be found, shall wheresoever such act may have been done or committed, have full power and jurisdiction to hear, try, and determine such suit, and such person or persons as are not inhabitants of or found within the district in which suit is brought may be brought in by order of the court to be served personally or by publication or in such other reasonable manner as the court may direct.

(d) The civil remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to all other criminal penalties and civil remedies provided by law.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

SEC. 210. *The Administrator shall submit a report to the Congress, in January of each year and at such other times as he may deem it desirable, regarding the administration of his functions under this Act, together with such recommendations for amendments to this Act as he may deem appropriate as the result of the administration of such functions, at which time he shall also cite the laws becoming obsolete by reason of passage or operation of the provisions of this Act.*

TITLE III - PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 301. *The purpose of this title is to facilitate the procurement of supplies and services;*

APPLICATION AND PROCUREMENT METHODS

SEC. 302. (a) *The provisions of this title shall be applicable to purchases and contracts for supplies or services made—*

(1) *by the General Services Administration for the use of such agency or otherwise; and*

(2) *by any other executive agency (except any agency named in section 2 (a) of the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947), to the extent of and in conformity with authority delegated by the Administrator pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.*

*The Administrator may delegate to the head of any other such agency authority to make purchases and contracts for supplies or services pursuant to the provisions of this title (A) for the use of two or more executive agencies or (B) in other cases upon a determination by the Administrator that by reason of circumstances set forth in such determination such delegation is advantageous to the Government in terms of economy, efficiency, or national security. Notice of every such delegation of authority so made shall be furnished to the General Accounting Office.*

(b) *It is the declared policy of the Congress that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts for supplies and services for the Government shall be placed with small-business concerns. Whenever it is proposed to make a contract or purchase in excess of \$10,000 by negotiation and without advertising, pursuant to the authority of paragraph (7) or (8) of section 302 (c) of this title, suitable advance publicity, as determined by the agency head with due regard to the type of supplies involved and other relevant considerations, shall be given for a period of at least fifteen days, wherever practicable, as determined by the agency head.*

(c) *All purchases and contracts for supplies and services shall be made by advertising, as provided in section 303, except that such purchases and contracts may be negotiated by the agency head without advertising if—*

(1) *determined to be necessary in the public interest during the period of a national emergency declared by the President or by the Congress;*

(2) *the public exigency will not admit of the delay incident to advertising;*

(3) *the aggregate amount involved does not exceed \$1,000: Provided, That no agency other than the General Services Administration shall make any purchase of, or contract for, supplies or services in*

excess of \$500 under this paragraph except in the exercise of authority conferred by the Administrator to procure and furnish supplies and services for the use of two or more executive agencies;

- (4) for personal or professional services;
- (5) for any service to be rendered by any university, college, or other educational institution;
- (6) the supplies or services are to be procured and used outside the limits of the United States and its possessions;
- (7) for medicines or medical supplies;
- (8) for supplies purchased for authorized resale;
- (9) for supplies or services for which it is impracticable to secure competition;

(10) the agency head determines that the purchase or contract is for experimental, developmental, or research work, or for the manufacture or furnishing of supplies for experimentation, development, research, or test: Provided, That beginning six months after the effective date of this title and at the end of each six-month period thereafter, there shall be furnished to the Congress a report setting forth the name of each contractor with whom a contract has been entered into pursuant to this paragraph (10) since the date of the last such report, the amount of the contract, and, with due consideration given to the national security, a description of the work required to be performed thereunder;

(11) for supplies or services as to which the agency head determines that the character, ingredients, or components thereof are such that the purchase or contract should not be publicly disclosed;

(12) for equipment which the agency head determines to be technical equipment, and as to which he determines that the procurement thereof without advertising is necessary in special situations or in particular localities in order to assure standardization of equipment and interchangeability of parts and that such standardization and interchangeability is necessary in the public interest;

(13) for supplies or services as to which the agency head determines that bid prices after advertising therefor are not reasonable (either as to all or as to some part of the requirements) or have not been independently arrived at in open competition: Provided, That no negotiated purchase or contract may be entered into under this paragraph after the rejection of all or some of the bids received unless (A) notification of the intention to negotiate and reasonable opportunity to negotiate shall have been given by the agency head to each responsible bidder and (B) the negotiated price is the lowest negotiated price offered by any responsible supplier; or

(14) otherwise authorized by law.

(d) If in the opinion of the agency head bids received after advertising evidence any violation of the antitrust laws he shall refer such bids to the Attorney General for appropriate action.

(e) This section shall not be construed to (A) authorize the erection, repair, or furnishing of any public building or public improvement, but such authorization shall be required in the same manner as heretofore, or (B) permit any contract for the construction or repair of buildings, roads, sidewalks, sewers, mains, or similar items to be negotiated without advertising as required by section 303, unless such contract is to be performed outside the continental United States or unless negotiation of such contract

is authorized by the provisions of paragraph (1), (2), (3), (9), (10), (11), or (13) of subsection (c) of this section.

#### ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 303. Whenever advertising is required—

(a) The advertisement for bids shall be made a sufficient time previous to the purchase or contract, and specifications and invitations for bids shall permit such full and free competition as is consistent with the procurement of types of supplies and services necessary to meet the requirements of the agency concerned.

(b) All bids shall be publicly opened at the time and place stated in the advertisement. Award shall be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to that responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered: Provided, That all bids may be rejected when the agency head determines that it is in the public interest so to do.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS

SEC. 304. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, contracts negotiated pursuant to section 302 (c) may be of any type which in the opinion of the agency head will promote the best interests of the Government. Every contract negotiated pursuant to section 302 (c) shall contain a suitable warranty, as determined by the agency head, by the contractor that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure such contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business, for the breach or violation of which warranty the Government shall have the right to annul such contract without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the contract price or consideration the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

(b) The cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost system of contracting shall not be used, and in the case of a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract the fee shall not exceed 10 per centum of the estimated cost of the contract, exclusive of the fee, as determined by the agency head at the time of entering into such contract (except that a fee not in excess of 15 per centum of such estimated cost is authorized in any such contract for experimental, developmental, or research work and that a fee inclusive of the contractor's costs and not in excess of 6 per centum of the estimated cost, exclusive of fees, as determined by the agency head at the time of entering into the contract, of the project to which such fee is applicable is authorized in contracts for architectural or engineering services relating to any public works or utility project). Neither a cost nor a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract nor an incentive-type contract shall be used unless the agency head determines that such method of contracting is likely to be less costly than other methods or that it is impractical to secure supplies or services of the kind or quality required without the use of a cost or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract or an incentive-type contract. All cost and cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contracts shall provide for advance notification by the contractor to the procuring agency of any subcontract thereunder on a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee basis and of any fixed-price subcontract or purchase order which exceeds in dollar amount either \$25,000 or 5 per centum of the total estimated cost of the prime

*contract; and a procuring agency, through any authorized representative thereof, shall have the right to inspect the plans and to audit the books and records of any prime contractor or subcontractor engaged in the performance of a cost or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract.*

#### ADVANCE PAYMENTS

*SEC. 305. (a) The agency head may make advance payments under negotiated contracts heretofore or hereafter executed in any amount not exceeding the contract price upon such terms as the parties shall agree: Provided, That advance payments shall be made only upon adequate security and if the agency head determines that provision for such advance payments is in the public interest or in the interest of the national defense and is necessary and appropriate in order to procure required supplies or services under the contract.*

*(b) The terms governing advance payments may include as security provision for, and upon inclusion of such provision there shall thereby be created, a lien in favor of the Government, paramount to all other liens, upon the supplies contracted for, upon the credit balance in any special account in which such payments may be deposited and upon such of the material and other property acquired for performance of the contract as the parties shall agree.*

#### WAIVER OF LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

*SEC. 306. Whenever any contract made on behalf of the Government by the agency head or by officers authorized by him so to do includes a provision for liquidated damages for delay, the Comptroller General on the recommendation of the agency head is authorized and empowered to remit the whole or any part of such damages as in his discretion may be just and equitable.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

*SEC. 307. (a) The determinations and decisions provided in this title to be made by the Administrator or other agency head may be made with respect to individual purchases and contracts or with respect to classes of purchases or contracts, and shall be final. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the agency head is authorized to delegate his powers provided by this title, including the making of such determinations and decisions, in his discretion and subject to his direction, to any other officer or officers or officials of the agency.*

*(b) The power of the agency head to make the determinations or decisions specified in paragraphs (11) and (12) of section 302 (c) and in section 305 (a) shall not be delegable, and the power to make the determinations or decisions specified in paragraph (10) of section 302 (c) shall be delegable only to a chief officer responsible for procurement and only with respect to contracts which will not require the expenditure of more than \$25,000. The power of the Administrator to make the delegations and determinations specified in section 302 (a) shall be delegable only to the Deputy Administrator or to the chief official of any principal organizational unit of the General Services Administration.*

*(c) Each determination or decision required by paragraphs (10), (11), (12), or (13) of section 302 (c), by section 304 or by section 305 (a) shall be based upon written findings made by the official making such deter-*

mination, which findings shall be final and shall be available within the agency for a period of at least six years following the date of the determination. A copy of the findings shall be submitted to the General Accounting Office with the contract.

(d) In any case where any purchase or contract is negotiated pursuant to the provisions of section 302 (c), except in a case covered by paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) thereof, the data with respect to the negotiation shall be preserved in the files of the agency for a period of six years following final payment on such contract.

#### STATUTES CONTINUED IN EFFECT

SEC. 308. No purchase or contract shall be exempt from the Act of June 30, 1936 (49 Stat. 2036, as amended; 41 U. S. C. 35 to 45), or from the Act of March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1494, as amended; 40 U. S. C. 276a to 276a-6), solely by reason of having been entered into pursuant to section 302 (c) hereof without advertising, and the provisions of said Acts and of the Act of June 19, 1912 (37 Stat. 137, as amended; 40 U. S. C. 324 and 325a), if otherwise applicable, shall apply to such purchases and contracts.

#### DEFINITIONS

SEC. 309. As used in this title--

(a) The term "agency head" shall mean the head or any assistant head of any executive agency, and may at the option of the Administrator include the chief official of any principal organizational unit of the General Services Administration.

(b) The term "supplies" shall mean all property except land, and shall include, by way of description and without limitation, public works, buildings, facilities, ships, floating equipment, and vessels of every character, type and description (except the categories of naval vessels named in section 3 (d)), aircraft, parts, accessories, equipment, machine tools and alteration or installation thereof.

#### STATUTES NOT APPLICABLE

SEC. 310. The following provisions of law shall not apply to the procurement of supplies or services (1) by the General Services Administration, or (2) within the scope of authority delegated by the Administrator to any other executive agency:

Revised Statutes, section 3709, as amended (41 U. S. C. 5);

Revised Statutes, section 3735 (41 U. S. C. 13);

Sections 1 and 2 of the Act of October 10, 1940 (54 Stat. 1109, as amended; 41 U. S. C. 6 and 6a).

### TITLE IV- FOREIGN EXCESS PROPERTY

#### DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN EXCESS PROPERTY

SEC. 401. Each executive agency having foreign excess property shall be responsible for the disposal thereof: Provided, That (a) the head of each such executive agency shall, with respect to the disposition of such property, conform to the foreign policy of the United States; (b) the Secretary of State shall have the authority to use foreign currencies and credits acquired by the United States under section 402 (b) of this Act



in order to effectuate the purposes of section 32 (b) (2) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, and the Foreign Service Buildings Act of May 7, 1926, as amended (including Public Law 547, Seventy-ninth Congress (60 Stat. 663)), and for the purpose of paying any other governmental expenses payable in local currencies, and the authority to amend, modify, and renew agreements in effect on the effective date of this Act; (c) any foreign currencies or credits acquired by the Department of State pursuant to such agreements shall be administered in accordance with procedures that may from time to time be established by the Secretary of the Treasury and, if and when reduced to United States currency, shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts; and (d) the Department of State shall, except to such extent as the President shall otherwise determine, continue to perform other functions with respect to agreements for the disposal of foreign excess property in effect on the effective date of this Act.

#### METHODS AND TERMS OF DISPOSAL

SEC. 402. Foreign excess property may be disposed of (a) by sale, exchange, lease, or transfer, for cash, credit, or other property, with or without warranty, and upon such other terms and conditions as the head of the executive agency concerned deems proper; but in no event shall any property be sold without a condition forbidding its importation into the United States, unless the Secretary of Agriculture (in the case of any agricultural commodity, food, or cotton or woolen goods) or the Secretary of Commerce (in the case of any other property) determines that the importation of such property would relieve domestic shortages or otherwise be beneficial to the economy of this country, or (b) for foreign currencies or credits, or substantial benefits or the discharge of claims resulting from the compromise or settlement of such claims by any executive agency in accordance with the law, whenever the head of the executive agency concerned determines that it is in the interest of the United States to do so. Such property may be disposed of without advertising when the head of the executive agency concerned finds so doing to be most practicable and to be advantageous to the Government. The head of each executive agency responsible for the disposal of foreign excess property may execute such documents for the transfer of title or other interest in property and take such other action as he deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property; and may authorize the abandonment, destruction, or donation of foreign excess property under his control which has no commercial value or the estimated cost of care and handling of which would exceed the estimated proceeds from its sale.

#### PROCEEDS, FOREIGN CURRENCIES

SEC. 403. Proceeds from the sale, lease, or other disposition of foreign excess property, (a) shall, if in the form of foreign currencies or credits, be administered in accordance with procedures that may from time to time be established by the Secretary of the Treasury, and (b) shall, if in United States currency, or when any proceeds in foreign currencies or credits shall be reduced to United States currency, be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: Provided, That the provisions of section 204 (b) (which by their terms apply to property disposed of under title II) shall be applicable to proceeds of foreign excess property disposed of for United States currency under this title IV: And provided further,

*That any executive agency disposing of foreign excess property under this title (1) may deposit, in a special account with the Treasurer of the United States, such amount of the proceeds of such dispositions as it deems necessary to permit appropriate refunds to purchasers when any disposition is rescinded or does not become final, or payments for breach of any warranty, and (2) may withdraw therefrom amounts so to be refunded or paid, without regard to the origin of the funds withdrawn.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

*SEC. 404. (a) The President may prescribe such policies, not inconsistent with the provisions of this title, as he shall deem necessary to effectuate the provisions of this title, which provisions shall guide each executive agency in carrying out its functions hereunder.*

*(b) Any authority conferred upon any executive agency or the head thereof by the provisions of this title may be delegated, and successive redelegation thereof may be authorized, by such head to any official in such agency or to the head of any other executive agency.*

*(c) The head of each executive agency responsible for the disposal of foreign excess property hereunder may, as may be necessary to carry out his functions under this title, (1) subject to the civil-service and classification laws, appoint and fix the compensation of personnel, and (2) without regard to the civil-service and classification laws, appoint and fix the compensation of personnel outside the continental limits of the United States.*

*(d) The head of each executive agency responsible for the disposal of foreign excess property under this title shall submit a report to Congress in January of each year or at such other time or times as he may deem desirable relative to its activities under this title, together with any appropriate recommendations.*

*(e) There shall be transferred from the Department of State to each other executive agency affected by this title such records, property, personnel, obligations, commitments, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds, available or to be made available, as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate to functions of such agency under this title which have heretofore been administered by the Department of State.*

#### TITLE V- GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING PROCEDURES

*SEC. 501. All policies, procedures, and directives prescribed—*

*(a) by either the Director, Bureau of Federal Supply, or the Secretary of the Treasury and relating to any function transferred to or vested in the Administrator, by the provisions of this Act;*

*(b) by any officer of the Government under the authority of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, or under other authority with respect to surplus property or foreign excess property;*

*(c) by or under authority of the Federal Works Administrator or the head of any constituent agency of the Federal Works Agency; and*

*(d) by the Archivist of the United States or any other officer or body whose functions are transferred by title I of this Act,*

*in effect upon the effective date of this Act and not inconsistent herewith, shall remain in full force and effect unless and until superseded, or except as they may be amended, under the authority of this Act or under other appropriate authority.*

REPEAL AND SAVING PROVISIONS

*SEC. 502. (a) There are hereby repealed—*

*(1) the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended (except sections 13 (d), 13 (g), 13 (h), 28, and 32 (b) (2)), and sections 501 and 502 of Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1947: Provided, That, with respect to the disposal under this Act of any surplus real estate, all priorities and preferences provided for in said Act, as amended, shall continue in effect until 12 o'clock noon (eastern standard time), December 31, 1949;*

*(2) that portion of the Act entitled "An Act making supplemental appropriations for the Executive Office and sundry independent executive bureaus, boards, commissions, and offices, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, and for other purposes", approved June 30, 1948 (Public Law 862, Eightieth Congress), as amended, appearing under the caption "Surplus property disposal";*

*(3) the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of War to dispose of material no longer needed by the Army", approved February 28, 1936 (49 Stat. 1147; 10 U. S. C. 1258);*

*(4) the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to dispose of material no longer needed by the Navy", approved May 23, 1930, as amended (46 Stat. 378; 34 U. S. C. 546c);*

*(5) section 5 of the Act of July 11, 1919 (41 Stat. 67; 40 U. S. C. 311);*

*(6) the first and second provisos contained in the fifth paragraph under the heading "Division of Supply" in section 1 of the Act of December 20, 1928 (45 Stat. 1030; 40 U. S. C. 311a);*

*(7) the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force to donate excess and surplus property for educational purposes", approved July 2, 1948 (Public Law 889, Eightieth Congress);*

*(8) section 203 of the Act of June 26, 1943 (57 Stat. 195, as amended; 5 U. S. C. 118d-1);*

*(9) the Act of April 15, 1937 (50 Stat. 64; 5 U. S. C. 118d);*

*(10) the second proviso contained in the paragraph of the Act of August 10, 1912 (37 Stat. 296; 5 U. S. C. 545), headed "Contingent expenses, Department of Agriculture";*

*(11) the second proviso contained in the twentieth paragraph of section 1 of the Act of March 2, 1917 (39 Stat. 973; 5 U. S. C. 494);*

*(12) the twenty-sixth paragraph under the heading "National Parks" of the Act of January 24, 1923 (42 Stat. 1215; 16 U. S. C. 9);*

*(13) the fifth paragraph under the heading "Experiments and demonstrations in livestock production in the cane-sugar and cotton districts of the United States" of the Act of June 30, 1914 (38 Stat. 441; 5 U. S. C. 546);*

*(14) the proviso contained in the second paragraph under the heading "Library, Department of Agriculture" of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1107; 5 U. S. C. 548);*

- (15) the second proviso contained in the second paragraph under the heading "Clothing and camp and garrison equipage" of section 1 of the Act of August 29, 1916 (39 Stat. 635; 10 U. S. C. 1271);
- (16) the Act of May 11, 1939 (53 Stat. 739; 10 U. S. C. 1271a);
- (17) the fifth paragraph under the heading "Office of the Chief Signal Officer" of the Act of May 12, 1917 (40 Stat. 43, as amended; 10 U. S. C. 1272);
- (18) the third proviso contained in the second paragraph under the heading "Office of the Chief Signal Officer" of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1064; 10 U. S. C. 1273);
- (19) the fourteenth paragraph under the heading "Smithsonian Institution" of section 1 of the Act of March 3, 1915 (38 Stat. 839; 20 U. S. C. 66);
- (20) the second paragraph under the heading "Government hospital for the insane" of section 1 of the Act of August 1, 1914 (38 Stat. 649; 24 U. S. C. 173);
- (21) the second paragraph under the heading "Saint Elizabeths Hospital" of section 1 of the Act of June 12, 1917 (40 Stat. 153; 24 U. S. C. 174);
- (22) the proviso contained in the second paragraph under the heading "Bureau of Supplies and Accounts" of the Act of August 22, 1912 (37 Stat. 346; 34 U. S. C. 531a);
- (23) the second proviso of the first paragraph under the heading "Bureau of Yards and Docks" of the Act of August 29, 1916 (34 U. S. C. 532);
- (24) the proviso contained in the second paragraph under the heading "Maintenance, Quartermaster's Department, Marine Corps" of the Act of March 4, 1917 (39 Stat. 1189; 34 U. S. C. 723);
- (25) the twentieth paragraph under the heading "Bureau of Mines" of section 1 of the Act of July 19, 1919 (41 Stat. 200; 40 U. S. C. 118);
- (26) the first sentence of section 5 of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1161; 41 U. S. C. 26);
- (27) the third paragraph under the heading "Interstate Commerce Commission" of section 1 of the Act of August 1, 1914 (38 Stat. 627; 49 U. S. C. 58);
- (28) the Act of June 6, 1941 (55 Stat. 247; 14 U. S. C. 31b);
- (29) section 4 of the Act of June 17, 1910 (36 Stat. 531; 41 U. S. C. 7);
- (30) the Act of February 27, 1929 (45 Stat. 1341; 41 U. S. C. 7a, 7b, 7c, and 7d); and
- (31) section 1 of the Act of May 14, 1935 (49 Stat. 234; 41 U. S. C. 7c 1).
- (b) The provisions of the first, third, and fifth paragraphs of section 1 of Executive Order Numbered 6166 of June 10, 1933, are hereby superseded, insofar as they relate to any function now administered by the Bureau of Federal Supply except functions with respect to standard contract forms.
- (c) The authority conferred by this Act is in addition to any authority conferred by any other law and shall not be subject to the provisions of any law inconsistent herewith, except that sections 205 (b) and 206 (c) of this Act shall not be applicable to any Government corporation or agency which is subject to the Government Corporation Control Act (59 Stat. 597; 31 U. S. C. 841).

(d) *Nothing in this Act shall impair or affect any authority of—*

(1) *the President under the Philippine Property Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 418; 22 U. S. C. 1381);*

(2) *any executive agency with respect to any phase (including, but not limited to, procurement, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal) of any program conducted for purposes of resale, price support, grants to farmers, stabilization, transfer to foreign governments, or foreign aid, relief, or rehabilitation: Provided, That the agency carrying out such program shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with the fulfillment of the purposes of the program and the effective and efficient conduct of its business, coordinate its operations with the requirements of this Act and the policies and regulations prescribed pursuant thereto;*

(3) *any executive agency named in the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947, and the head thereof, with respect to the administration of said Act;*

(4) *the National Military Establishment with respect to property required for or located in occupied territories;*

(5) *the Secretary of Defense with respect to the administration of the National Industrial Reserve Act of 1948;*

(6) *the Secretary of Defense, the Munitions Board, and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force with respect to the administration of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (60 Stat. 596), and provided that any imported materials which the authorized procuring agency shall certify to the Commissioner of Customs to be strategic and critical materials procured under said Act may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, free of duty;*

(7) *the Secretary of State under the Foreign Service Buildings Act of May 7, 1926, as amended;*

(8) *the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force with respect to the administration of section 1 (b) of the Act entitled "An Act to expedite the strengthening of the national defense", approved July 2, 1940 (54 Stat. 712);*

(9) *the Secretary of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture under (A) the National School Lunch Act (60 Stat. 230); (B) the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1062); (C) the Act of August 31, 1947, Public Law 298, Eightieth Congress, with respect to the disposal of labor supply centers, and labor homes, labor camps, or facilities; (D) section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (49 Stat. 774), as amended, with respect to the exportation and domestic consumption of agricultural products; or (E) section 201 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (52 Stat. 36) or section 203 (j) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 1082);*

(10) *the Secretary of Agriculture, Farm Credit Administration, or any farm credit board under section 6 (b) of the Farm Credit Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 706), with respect to the acquisition or disposal of property;*

(11) *the Housing and Home Finance Agency, or any officer or constituent agency therein, with respect to the disposal of residential property, or of other property (real or personal) held as part of or acquired for or in connection with residential property, or in connection with the insurance of mortgages, loans, or savings and loan accounts under the National Housing Act;*

(12) the Tennessee Valley Authority with respect to nonpersonal services, with respect to the matters referred to in section 201 (a) (4), and with respect to any property, acquired or to be acquired for or in connection with any program of processing, manufacture, production, or force account construction: Provided, That the Tennessee Valley Authority shall to the maximum extent that it may deem practicable, consistent with the fulfillment of the purpose of its program and the effective and efficient conduct of its business, coordinate its operations with the requirements of this Act and the policies and regulations prescribed pursuant thereto;

(13) the Atomic Energy Commission;

(14) the Administrator of Civil Aeronautics or the Chief of the Weather Bureau with respect to the disposal of airport property and airway property for use as such property. For the purpose of of this paragraph the terms "airport property" and "airway property" shall have the respective meanings ascribed to them in the International Aviation Facilities Act (62 Stat. 450);

(15) the Postmaster General or the Postal Establishment with respect to the means and methods of distribution and transportation of the mails, and contracts, negotiations, and proceedings before Federal and State regulatory and rate-making bodies, relating to the transportation of the mails;

(16) the United States Maritime Commission with respect to the construction, reconstruction, and reconditioning (including outfitting and equipping incident to the foregoing), the acquisition, procurement, operation, maintenance, preservation, sale, lease, or charter of any merchant vessel or of any shipyard, ship site, terminal, pier, dock, warehouse, or other installation necessary or appropriate for the carrying out of any program of such Commission authorized by law, or nonadministrative activities incidental thereto: Provided, That the United States Maritime Commission shall to the maximum extent that it may deem practicable, consistent with the fulfillment of the purposes of such programs and the effective and efficient conduct of such activities, coordinate its operations with the requirements of this Act, and the policies and regulations prescribed pursuant thereto;

(17) Central Intelligence Agency;

(18) except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) hereof, any other law relating to the procurement, utilization, or disposal of property: Provided, That, subject to, and within the scope of authority conferred on the Administrator by other provisions of this Act, he is authorized to prescribe regulations to govern any procurement, utilization, or disposal of property under any such law, whenever but only to the extent he deems such action necessary to effectuate the provisions of title II; nor

(19) for such period of time as the President may specify, any other authority of any executive agency which the President determines within one year after the effective date of this Act should, in the public interest, stand unimpaired by this Act.

(e) Section §709, Revised Statutes, as amended (41 U. S. C. 5), is amended by striking out "\$100" wherever it appears therein and inserting in lieu thereof "\$500".

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. 503. (a) *There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.*

(b) *When authorized by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, any Federal agency may use, for the disposition of property under this Act, and for its care and handling pending such disposition, any funds heretofore or hereafter appropriated, allocated, or available to it for purposes similar to those provided for in sections 201, 202, 203, and 205 of this Act.*

SEPARABILITY

SEC. 504. *If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.*

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 505. *This Act shall become effective on July 1, 1949, except that the provisions of section 502 (a) (2) (repealing prior law relating to the disposition of the affairs of the War Assets Administration) shall become effective on June 30, 1949.*

*And the Senate agree to same.*

WILLIAM L. DAWSON,  
CHET HOLIFIELD,  
M. G. BURNSIDE,  
R. WALTER RIEHLMAN,  
RALPH HARVEY,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

JOHN L. McCLELLAN,  
JAMES O. EASTLAND,  
CLYDE R. HOEY,  
JOE MCCARTHY,  
IRVING M. IVES,

*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*



#### STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 4754) to simplify the procurement, utilization, and disposal of Government property, to reorganize certain agencies of the Government, and for other purposes, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

The Senate amendment struck out all of the House bill after the enacting clause and inserted a substitute amendment. The conferees have agreed to a substitute for both the House bill and the Senate amendment. Except for clarifying, clerical and necessary conforming changes, the following statement explains the differences between the House bill and the substitute agreed to in conference.

#### DESIGNATION OF NAME

The conference substitute provides that the new agency shall be known as the "General Services Administration," as provided in the House bill, rather than as the "General Services Agency," as provided in the Senate amendment. It is desired that the term "Administration" come to be applied only to independent agencies, that do not have Cabinet status, as in the case of the departments, and that are not primarily regulatory bodies as is the case with commissions. This change is effected in harmony with the recognition of the long over-due realignment of elements within the generic governmental term "agency." It is the beginning of proper, and more fittingly descriptive nomenclature, in governmental fields.

#### APPLICABILITY TO SENATE AND HOUSE

Under the House bill the Senate and House of Representatives were included in the definition of "Federal agency" in section 3 (b). The Senate amendment contained provision excluding the Senate and the House of Representatives from the definition and specifying both Houses of Congress, among the bodies for which the Administrator is to provide procurement and related services, only upon request, as set out under section 201 (b). The substitute adopts the Senate language. Thus the autonomy of the Congress is preserved, except insofar as it shall, upon its request, desire to be included in the procurement and related services.

#### DESIGNATION OF TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR

The House bill provides (sec. 101 (d)) that pending the first appointment of an Administrator of General Services, the President may designate the Federal Works Administrator in office immediately prior to the effective date of the act to serve temporarily as Adminis-

trator and receive the compensation of the General Services Administrator. The Senate amendment provides that the functions of the Administrator shall be performed temporarily by such officer of the Government in office upon, or immediately prior to the effective date of the act as the President shall designate. The substitute adopts the Senate language with the addition of the House provision for compensation, so that in case the incumbent of an abolished office is designated, he will be entitled to receive compensation during the period of his temporary service.

#### COMPENSATION OF ADMINISTRATOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

Under the House bill (sec. 109) the President is authorized to fix the compensation of the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, and other named officers, pending the effective date of other provisions of law fixing such compensation, and with regard to existing provisions of law governing such compensation at a rate commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of the respective offices.

The Senate amendment (sec. 101 (e)) authorizes the President to fix the compensation of the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and heads and assistant heads of the principal organizational units of the General Services Administration at such rates, not in excess of \$15,000 per annum, as he shall deem to be commensurate with responsibilities and duties of the offices. The substitute (sec. 101 (e)) contains compromise language providing that pending the effective date of other provisions of law fixing the compensation of the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and heads and assistant heads of the principal organizational units, and taking into consideration provisions of law providing the compensation of offices having comparable responsibilities and duties, the President shall fix rates of compensation for each of them which he deems commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of the several offices. Thus the broader application of the Senate provision (to heads and assistant heads of constituent units) is adopted, but the House recognition of the pendency of other salary legislation is retained and a new element requiring consideration of salaries paid to comparable officers is introduced in lieu of the House reference to provisions of existing law governing compensation of the officers named. It should be noted that under other provisions of the substitute discussed in the following paragraph certain of the offices named in the original House provision are abolished.

#### DISPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF FEDERAL SUPPLY

The House bill (sec. 102 (a)) transfers the Bureau of Federal Supply, and its functions, records, property, personnel obligations and commitments from the Department of the Treasury to the General Services Administration, also providing for a Commissioner of Federal Supply to be the head of the Bureau of Federal Supply. The Senate amendment transfers the functions, records, personnel, etc., of the Bureau of Federal Supply to the General Services Administrator and abolishes that Bureau and the office of the Director. The substitute follows the Senate amendment in that it provides for the abolition of the Bureau and the office of the Director, but the language has been revised so that functions are transferred to the Administrator, and records, property,

personnel obligations and commitments are transferred to the Administration. This framework is in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

#### FEDERAL WORKS

The House bill would have transferred to the General Services Administration the Public Buildings and Roads Administrations and all other functions of the Federal Works Agency, and merely abolished the Federal Works Agency and the Offices of the Administrator and Assistant Administrator thereof. The Senate amendment would have transferred Public Roads and abolished not only the Federal Works Agency but also the Public Buildings Administration, and the office of the Commissioner thereof. The conference substitute follows the Senate amendment substantially, though in slightly different language, and, also, transfers the functions of the Commissioner of Public Roads to the Administrator of General Services. The substitute thus conforms to the strong recommendations of the Commission on Government Organization for an integrated organization with all statutory authority and responsibility vested in the head of the organization. For the same reasons the conference substitute has omitted the prior language preserving the Bureau of Community Facilities. Further, the substitute changes the name of Public Roads Administration to Bureau of Public Roads as another step toward standard governmental nomenclature.

#### ARCHIVES

The House text would have exempted from transfer to the Administrator the functions of the Archivist of the United States, under the act of July 7, 1943, respecting the destruction of certain historical records. The Senate amendment struck out this exemption. The House conferees, accepted the Senate version because it conforms to the recommendations of the Commission on Organization that all authority and responsibility be lodged in the head of the agency. For the same reasons, the conferees adopted the House language which transfers to the General Services Administration, the custody of certain Federal funds now held by several bodies connected with the National Archives Establishment, and likewise also transferred to the General Services Administration under both the Senate and House texts.

#### RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Senate amendment added as section 104 (c) a new provision authorizing the Administrator (1) to survey and obtain reports on Government records management, (2) to promote improved records-management practices in the Government, including central storage and disposal, and (3) to report to the Congress on such activities. The conference substitute adopts the Senate provision as being a good start towards the improvement of Government records management as recommended by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

In connection with internal regrouping and redistribution of functions by the Administrator, the Senate amendment required the

approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to the necessary accompanying transfers of funds. It was felt that the authority in this field should not be divided. The conferees, therefore, agreed upon the House text, which authorizes the Administrator to make such transfers of funds and merely requires him to appropriately report such transfers to the Budget Director.

#### GENERAL SUPPLY FUND

The Senate amendment with respect to the General Supply Fund (sec. 109) establishes a new General Supply Fund and transfers to the Administrator the assets of the present General Supply Fund. The new fund is made available for the procurement of personal property and nonpersonal services for executive agencies. Beginning July 1, 1950, only direct costs of procurement, handling, and distribution are to be paid from the fund and prices fixed by the Administrator are not to include indirect or overhead costs. Until July 1, 1950, prices are to be fixed as now authorized. Provision is made for advance payment by requisitioning agencies; otherwise, payment is to be made on vouchers in the usual manner, with the transfer and counter warrant method authorized when payment has not been made within 45 days after billing. The fund is a reimbursable fund, and the establishment of a special deposit account for use by disbursing officers is authorized. Upon the annual audit of the fund by the Comptroller General, any surplus found therein (all assets, liabilities, and prior losses considered) above the authorized capital goes to miscellaneous receipts. The Comptroller General is to report the results of each annual audit to the Congress, with any recommendations as to the status and operation of the fund. The fund may be used for the procurement of supplies and nonpersonal services requested by mixed-ownership Government corporations, the District of Columbia and certain non-Federal agencies, but in such cases, the prices charged are to include the estimated indirect as well as direct costs.

The Senate amendment provided that the fund should not be greater than \$100,000,000. With one change to reduce this figure to \$75,000,000, the Senate amendment was accepted in lieu of section 210 (e) of the House bill, which merely amended the present authority by providing that prices charged for supplies or nonpersonal services furnished through the General Supply Fund should be fixed in amounts estimated to represent two items of cost, i. e., purchase price and transportation. It is felt that the Senate amendment reconstituting the existing fund makes possible the simplification of certain procedures and is more desirable.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The Senate conferees receded from the Senate amendment which deleted references to transportation and traffic management in section 201 (a) and which in section 502 (b) provided for the continuance of transportation and traffic management functions under Executive Order 6166. The provision of section 201 (a) of the House bill with respect to transportation and traffic management are in accordance with the Recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government and provide clear authority on this subject.

#### PUBLIC UTILITY CONTRACTS FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR

The Senate amendment to section 201 (a) (3) provides that contracts for public-utility services may be made by the Administrator for periods not exceeding 10 years. The purpose of the amendment is to permit the Government to take advantage of discounts which may be obtained only under contracts for periods of longer than 1 year, particularly under contracts for electric-power requirements. The House conferees are thus in agreement with the Senate amendment.

In section 201 (c) the Senate conferees receded from the language of this subsection as contained in Senate amendment and accepted the House language. This eliminates the proviso in the Senate bill that items of personal property to be exchanged under this subsection must be subject to exchange as a general practice in trade channels.

Subsection 204 (c) is intended to permit any executive agency to accept on a projected basis strategic or critical material, as determined by the Munitions Board, in lieu of cash, in payment of amounts due the Government for rent, interest, or principal installments under leases or sales of surplus property.

The price to be allowed in computing the value of the strategic or critical material, shall be the prevailing market price thereof at the time the cash payment or payments become or become due.

The House conferees accepted the provisions of subsection 204 (f) in the Senate amendment. This subsection makes it clear that the Administrator is authorized to administer and manage any credit, lease, or permit, and security therefor, taken in connection with the disposition of surplus property, and it authorizes him to enforce, or suitably adjust, or settle the rights of the Government thereto as he considers in the best interest of the Government.

#### SUPPLY CATALOG PROGRAM

The conferees agreed on adoption of the House language in section 206 (a) (3) whereby provision is set up to establish and maintain such uniform Federal supply catalog system as may be appropriate to identify and classify personal property under the control of Federal agencies, provided, that the Administrator and the Secretary of Defense shall coordinate the cataloging activities of the General Services Administration and the National Military Establishment so as to avoid unnecessary duplication. The House language thus properly coordinates the military and civilian approach to the speedy completion of the present much needed cataloging program. The theme is cooperation.

In section 206 (b) the Senate receded from its amendment limiting the utilization of such uniform Federal supply catalog system and standard specification to executive agencies in favor of House language applying to it "Federal" agency. The conferees pressed for this foregoing utilization, except as the Administrator, taking into consideration efficiency, economy, and other interests of the Government, shall otherwise provide. Thus the use of the cataloging system is made mandatory by the Federal agencies, and not merely within the discretion of the head of any such agency or agencies.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The House bill language in section 210 directed the Administrator to submit a report to Congress, in January of each year and at such other times as he deems it desirable, regarding the administration of his functions under this act, together with such recommendations for amendments to this act as he may deem appropriate as the result of the administration of such functions. At that same time he is directed to cite laws becoming obsolete by reason of passage or operation of the provisions of this act. This latter point is pertinent since the Administrator will be immediately cognizant of such obsolete laws falling within his purview.

The Senate amendment set out in section 502 (f) that the Administrator shall report to the Congress, in January of each year, and at such other times as he may deem it desirable, the laws becoming obsolete by reason of the passage or operation of Title II and III of this act.

It was consensus of the conferees that the language and location of the House section 210 was more proper, less restrictive in scope, and would better afford the Congress accurate information for future legislation.

Further, the House bill exempted from the act the special merchant marine programs of the Maritime Commission (but not its general administrative activities). The Senate amendment did not contain this exemption. The House version was agreed to by the conferees as being in conformity with other exemptions of special programs, provided for in both the House bill and the Senate amendment.

In section 502 (a) (1) the House conferees accepted the Senate amendment to this subsection which amendment saves section 13 (d) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, from the repealer clause until December 31, 1949. It is the intention of the conferees to save Section 13 (d) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended.

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M. G. BURNSIDE,  
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RALPH HARVEY,  
*Managers on the Part of the House.*

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